others so that they could benefit from each others experience.

Suggestions for changes in the CCIS

*310. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high powered official committee has suggested far reaching changes in the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS);

(b) if so, what are the details of the changes suggested therein;

(c) what is the reaction of Government to these suggestions; and

(d) whether Government propose to implement the suggestions; if so, in what manner?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): (a) to (d) A Group under the Chairmanship of an Additional Secretary in the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has been constituted to undertake an indepth study and critical review of the functioning of the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS). The Group has so far held a series of meetings and is considering all aspects of the CCIS. The Group has not yet submitted its report to the Government.

Steps to increase oilseed production

*312. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the steps taken by Government to increase the oilseeds production in view of the prevailing drought conditions in various parts of the country and since the dry land is more useful for oilseeds production;

(b) what is the likely impact of the huge quantity of oil and oilseeds imports during the current year on the internal production and prices of oils and oilseeds;

(c) whether Government have received any representation from oilseed growers/oil producers in this regard; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to dispel their apprehensions?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): (a) Various measures taken to increase the production of oilseeds are given below:-

(i) Two Centrally Sponsored Schemes, the National Oilseeds Development Project (NODP) and the Oilseeds Production Thrust Project (OPTP) are in operation in important oilseeds growing States for increasing the production of oilseeds in the country during the year 1987-88. Under these projects, financial assistance is provided on various critical inputs to induce the farmers to take up the cultivation of oilseeds on a large scale mostly in dry land areas.

(ii) State level cooperative oilseeds growers' federation have been formed in some States under the project for restructuring of Edible Oils and Oilseeds Production and marketing through National Dairy Development Board. Better incentive to producers through fixation of minimum support prices for oilseeds at high levels.

(iii) Intensification of research efforts for increasing the productivity of oilseeds. A technology mission on oilseeds has been set-up.

(iv) Increase in area under non-traditional oilseeds crop like soyabean and sunflower and exploitation of oilseeds of tree and forest origin, rice bran etc.

(v) Setting up of necessary processing and infrastructural facilities